



Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program

What is Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program?

The Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program enhances trade in livestock and livestock products, with the goal of raising income and food security for 50,000 pastoralist households in Kenya's most drought susceptible areas. In these areas, 90 percent of families rely on livestock for their livelihoods; livestock products account for 95 percent of income. The program's work is focused all aspects of the value chain--enhancing livestock trade and marketing, helping producers and processors add value to livestock products, increasing livestock productivity and competitiveness through better feed and veterinary services, supporting a more favorable policy environment for the industry, and helping pastoralists withstand the effects of climate change.



Photo: CNFA

The local chief of Saka (in brown) helps out during a goat vaccination exercise.

Project Duration and Budget

June 2010 – June 2013

\$10 million

Who implements Drylands Livestock Development Program?

CNFA

www.cnfa.org

Kenya Livestock Marketing Council

<http://www.livestockcouncil.or.ke>

Agricultural Market Development Trust

Where does Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program work?

Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, and Tana River Counties.

What does Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program do?

The program builds the resilience of pastoralist communities to drought by creating new jobs in the livestock value chain, encouraging value adding activities such as processing of camel meat and milk, jewelry-making from camel bones, and increasing opportunities for marketing and trade.

Pastoralists are assisted to make the necessary connections to sell livestock directly to the markets of Mombasa and Nairobi, and encouraged to do so when their animals are in good condition. The program connects pastoralists to suppliers of inputs such as veterinary drugs to enhance animal health and the value of their livestock and encourages the production of fodder. The fodder is fed to their animals or sold to livestock traders during market days.

The program works to improve the overall policy environment for livestock trade—for example, participants have advocated for a reduction in the multiple taxes imposed as livestock move between counties.

Women's groups engaged in livestock-keeping and the marketing of livestock and animal-based products receive special training and attention, as do youth.

How is Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program making a difference?

- 11,338 households are currently benefitting from various Drylands Livestock Development programs and 2,402 individuals have received livestock productivity training.
- The program is working with 149 women's associations, and 88 producer organizations, water associations, trade and business associations and other community based organizations.
- In early 2012, the program sponsored a small group of traders as well as members of the Pastoral Marketing Council and the District Livestock Marketing Council for a trade mission to Coast Province to discuss a wide range of business opportunities with potential clients operating feeder ranches, slaughtering for the shipping lines, as well as local consumers.

What key challenges does the Drylands Livestock Development Program project face?

Pastoralism has been a way of life for centuries in Kenya's vast arid lands. Traditionally, families would herd their livestock cattle, camels, sheep, goats and donkeys to water and pasture, trekking many kilometers in search of water and pastures during dry seasons. Today, the pastoralists' livelihoods are becoming fragile as more frequent and severe droughts, population growth and continued political insecurity in neighboring Somalia constrain the movements of pastoralists and their herds.

Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program in action

Farmers from the Khalalio Community, in the furthest corner of Kenya's North Eastern Province, are within walking distance of both Ethiopia and Somalia and have been severely impacted by the prolonged and persistent drought.

Suffering from the loss of human life and livestock, Khalalio Community farmers participated in Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction training in April 2011. With support from USAID/Kenya's Feed the Future program, the community developed an action plan based on the farmers' knowledge of disasters that historically occur in their area. The planning exercise identified a need for reliable and affordable source of fodder as well as the need for improving animal health.

The USAID/Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program introduced a fast-growing and nutritious fodder to the community that had previously relied on pastures and or maize stover to feed animals when hay was unavailable or unaffordable. To further implement the community-managed strategy, the Mandera's District Livestock Marketing Council engaged the Ministry of Livestock Development to undertake a campaign to vaccinate and de-worm 38,520 animals.

Mohamed Dahir participated in the Khalalio disaster risk reduction planning and the follow-on KDLDLP training. "I now understand how to mitigate the effects of the drought. We could only think of using maize stover as fodder for our animals, we never knew there was an alternative and could not even imagine growing grass. I am happy to share these lessons with my neighbors," he says.

Mohamed has already shared his newfound knowledge with his mother Abdia Abdinoor, a fifty year old widow who lost seven of her 23 cows during the drought. With four children still dependent on her, Abdia could not afford to buy hay and drugs for her animals.

Abdia and her neighbors quickly adopted the practice of growing fodder. "I harvest my fodder after every two months," says Abdia. Her remaining cows were vaccinated during the Ministry's vaccination campaign. Abdia says she is "delighted that my animals are both healthy and well fed!"

For more information:

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Photo: CNFA

Thanks to the Drylands Livestock Development Program, Abdia Abdinoor's animals are better fed and she is better prepared to withstand drought.

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